CHER LLOYD: BETTER ON 'LATE' THAN EVER

THE BRITISH SINGER TALKS ABOUT HER NEW ALBUM, NEW APPROACH. PAGE 14

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Shooting vic's dad: Politicians are 'idiots'

Mass shooting. The father of a 20-year-old killed in Friday's rampage in California says his son's death could have been prevented if Congress had acted after the 2012 shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary. PAGE 06

Cataldi: Time for Brown to go

PAGE 22

Put the 'smart' in smartphone

PAGE 19

Plus. Philly author explores mixed 'Blessings' of a big family

PAGE 16

Did you know the Hammer of Glory was stolen last year? William Reed, owner of Standard Tap, holds the Beer Week symbol and shares its story exclusively with Metro Philadelphia. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

1 NEWS

Local tweet

"Happy Memorial Day! It's important as we are reminded almost daily of the great sacrifices that the men and women of the Armed Services make"

Right on, @AshleyFiolek67. Metro remembers our fallen brothers and sisters and all living veterans on Memorial Day and always.

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'VIDEO: T.I. and Floyd Mayweather brawl at Las Vegas restaurant'

2 '"Mad Men" recap: Season 7, Episode 7, "Waterloo"'

3 '"Orphan Black" recap: Season 2, Episode 6, "To Hound Nature in Her Wanderings"'

'Hammer of Glory' lore grows with Beer Week

Don't HOG it. The famed hammer has been through a lot over the years, say its creators.

William Reed, owner of Standard Tap in Northern Liberties, holds the Hammer of Glory. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

It's no Liberty Bell, but the Beer Week "Hammer of Glory" is on its way to becoming the city's next icon.

The Hammer, to be used by Mayor Nutter on Friday for the seventh annual Beer Week's inaugural keg-tapping at First Troop, has famously been photographed in hundreds of selfies, stolen from Johnny Brenda's, recovered under I-95 and been established as a bona fide local celeb.

But few people know where the famed Hammer came from.

"Beer Week needs some more dumb s—," were the words during a chat between co-creators William Reed, co-owner of Johnny Brenda's and Standard Tap, and Mike Scotese, owner of Grey Lodge, in 2009.

After the first Beer Week ended, Reed and Scotese, who have since become Beer Week board members, were concerned the event was too focused on "meet-the-brewer" events and tasting parties.

"For a lot of us, every day is Beer Week, so the question is, 'How do you share some of that fun with everybody?'" Reed said.

The idea came of a heroic-proportioned hammer, as a quasi-symbolic mascot for Beer Week.

Forger Warren Holzman of the Iron Studio was called in and given the cocktail-napkin diagram in early 2009. The hammer's success was instant.

"There's something about it that people just instantly get — like, 'Oh yeah, the Beer Hammer!'" said Reed, who stores the hammer in a display case at Standard Tap. "A hammer is like the beer of tools. It's got that slightly oversized manner. It's got an honesty, like beer."

"The HOG definitely speaks to people, no doubt," Scotese said in an email. "The number of people who get their picture taken with it is staggering."

Prior to the Mayor's keg-tapping, the hammer will be paraded among more than 20 bars. Some means of creative transit Reed has used for the HOG include ziplining it across Poplar and pogo-sticking it from bar to bar with lit fireworks tied to his legs. He has also brought it skydiving.

This Friday, the Hammer of Glory will be transported by the Philly Roller Girls, Fishtown Beer Runners and more, SEPTA and more.

It all goes toward spreading the joy and spirit of the local craft beer scene.

"There's just something about beer. No one ever says, 'Let me buy you a glass of wine,'" Reed said.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

'Crime of opportunity'

A hammer, wrongfully taken

One act that Reed and Scotese hope won't happen this year is another Hammer theft. As Reed recalled, the hammer was left out last year at Johnny Brenda's as people took selfies with it. Suddenly, it was gone.

"It was a crime of opportunity by a rather drunk patron," Reed said.

Ultimately, the thief is believed to have woken up with the Hammer of Glory in his possession, and in a spasm of guilt, discarded it under I-95, accounts say.

Quoted

"That's one of the great things about the Philly craft beer scene, we push each other to get to the next level and we respect each other's growth in making s— weirder."

Scotese

Sought. Man robbed, impaled upon rebar

A 38-year-old man was last listed in stable condition at Albert Einstein Medical Center on Sunday afternoon after he was robbed, thrown into a SEPTA construction site on the 5700 block of Broad Street and impaled by a reinforcing bar, reports say.

Police are looking for three or four men who they say are responsible for the act overnight Sunday. The men allegedly chased the victim down Broad Street, beat and robbed him. He was then tossed into the construction site, police said. His abdomen was pierced.

The men fled north on Broad Street. A witness had called police to report the incident around 12:45 Sunday, reports say. METRO

Accident

Officer on bike struck by car

A police officer patrolling on bicycle on Kensington Avenue was hit by a car on Sunday afternoon in Fishtown, according to reports.

She is listed in stable condition at Aria Frankford Hospital after being treated for lower left leg pain, reports say.

She is expected to be released. METRO

AC Expressway

Philly teens thrown from vehicle in crash

Five Philadelphia teenagers were ejected from the vehicle they were traveling in after police said the driver fell asleep at the wheel and hit trees at in Winslow on the AC Expressway.

Seven teenagers were in the Chevrolet Venture, which was severely damaged in the crash. The teenagers, all male, were driving home after spending time in the Wildwoods, police said. METRO

Details

Six of the teens are 17 years old while one is 16.

- All seven are in stable condition at Cooper University Hospital in Camden.

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www.AACR.org/PHIL *Photo by Bryce Vickmark* **#NCRM14**

Philadelphia celebrates veterans on Memorial Day

Mayor Michael Nutter was among the speakers who presented at Monday's Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony on Front and Spruce streets, celebrating fallen and current veterans in a special event. Above, a flag is presented to Dennis Best, a Marine who lost both his legs in Vietnam. Left, Marine veteran Jim Trolio stands at attention. Below, Patriot Guard Riders hold flags. Members of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces group, bottom right, hold a wreath. Trolio, bottom left, salutes the flag.

ALL PHOTOS CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Same-sex couples marry over the weekend

'Honored.' Mayor Nutter and eight judges performed 25 ceremonies on Friday and Saturday.

It's been exactly one week since a federal court judge found Pennsylvania's Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, paving the way for same-sex couples to get married in the commonwealth.

Mayor Michael Nutter announced over the weekend that since May 21, 85 licenses had been issued to couples in Philadelphia alone and several were married on Friday and Saturday after the mandatory three-day waiting period. Eighteen couples applied for licenses the same day the same-sex marriage ban was lifted.

Eight judges from the Court of Common Pleas, and also Nutter, performed two dozen weddings.

Couples who applied for licenses on Tuesday or Wednesday were personally invited by City Hall to have their marriage ceremony officiated. Eight couples were wed on Friday while 17 got married the next day.

"I was honored to join the judges …" Nutter said, "and hopefully, I will perform many more ceremonies in the future. Uniting two people in marriage is one of my favorite official duties to perform …"

Hundreds of people celebrated at City Hall in Philadelphia the day the ruling came down. Federal District Judge John E. Jones said in his decision it was time to discard old laws "into the ash heap of history."

CHRISTINA PACIOLLA
@cpaciolla
christina.paciolla@metro.us

The officiants

Judges who performed marriage ceremonies were: President Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, Judges Daniel J. Anders, Diana Louise Anhalt, Mark I. Bernstein, Ann Butchart, Barbara A. McDermott, Joseph D. O'Keefe and Lisa M. Rau.

Broken leg

Bensalem black bear euthanized

A black bear that was seen last week around the Neshaminy Creek in Bensalem was euthanized on Sunday night after it was found limping in the woods on Street Road, police said.

The bear, who alluded maple syrup-soaked doughnut traps set by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, had been struck by a car earlier that evening and suffered a broken leg. METRO

Ticket-fixing

Trial starts today for former traffic court judges

Lawyers are today expected to give opening statements in a Philadelphia traffic court ticket-fixing case where three judges, a court administrator and a businessman have all pleaded guilty.

Prosecutors say the former judges gave their politically connected friends special treatment. Defense lawyers say the former judges were wrongly charged. METRO

'Muster' up the courage

Andrew Lee, 8, leads the march at a military muster for the Continental Army, where young recruits learned how to hold, load and fire wooden muskets at Signers' Garden on Fifth and Chestnut streets on Memorial Day.

CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

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Bullet holes are seen in the window of the IV Deli Mart, one of several crime scenes on May 24 in Isla Vista, California. / GETTY IMAGES

Victim's father blames government 'idiots' as town mourns killings

Grief. Those killed were all students at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

With a California town grieving the deaths of six college students killed by a mentally ill man, one victim's father on Monday blamed the killings on politicians who failed to tighten gun laws after a mass school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut.

Richard Martinez, whose son Christopher Michael-Martinez, 20, was gunned down on Friday night in Isla Vista, California, said similar rampages would continue until lawmakers took action on gun control.

"We're all proud to be Americans. But what kind of message does it send to the world when we have such a rudderless bunch of idiots in government?" Martinez said on CNN.

Elliot Rodger, 22, the son of a Hollywood director, fatally stabbed three people in his apartment before shooting three people dead near the University of California at Santa Barbara.

He then shot himself. All of those killed were students at the school.

Michael-Martinez, described by his father as articulate and tough, was shot inside a deli. He was the last in the killing spree to die.

"These people are getting rich sitting in Congress. And what do they do? They don't take care of our kids," he said.

Legislation after Sandy Hook to extend background checks for gun sales, ban assault weapons and limit magazines' capacities failed to clear the Senate in April 2013.

Gun-rights advocates strongly opposed the measures. REUTERS

Quoted

"I can't tell you how angry I am. It's just awful, and no parent should have to go through this." Martinez

Newtown

26

Martinez said his son died because Congress had failed to act after a mentally ill gunman killed 26 people in December 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

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China report slams US for 'unscrupulous' surveillance practice

China last week summoned the U.S. ambassador to China, Max Baucus, to protest against the U.S. indictment, saying it had seriously harmed relations. / COLOURBOX

Widespread. "U.S. spying operations penetrate every corner of China," the report said.

Beijing accused the United States on Monday of "unscrupulous" cyber surveillance that included large-scale computer attacks against the Chinese government and Chinese companies.

The report, titled "America's Global Surveillance Record," was published one week after the United States accused five Chinese military officers of hacking into U.S. companies to steal trade secrets.

The publication accused the United States of "waging large-scale cyber-attacks" against China. "Targets of American surveillance include the Chinese government and Chinese leaders, Chinese companies, scientific research institutes, ordinary netizens and a large number of cell phone users," the report said.

Huawei Technologies Co., the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s popular instant message service were among NSA targets, it said.

The Cyber Space academy report cited foreign newspaper reports of U.S. cyber spying based on documents revealed by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

A subsequent investigation "carried out by various Chinese government departments over several months confirmed the existence of snooping activities directed against China," the report said.

REUTERS

Quoted

"America's spying operations have gone far beyond the legal rationale of 'anti-terrorism' and have exposed the ugly face of its pursuit of self-interest in complete disregard for moral integrity."

Concluded a report prepared by the China Academy of Cyber Space

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Crisis. Ukraine launches attack, leader won't talk with 'terrorists'

Ukraine launched air strikes and a paratrooper assault against pro-Russian rebels who seized an airport on Monday, as its newly elected leader rejected any talks with "terrorists" and said a robust military campaign in the east should be able to put down a separatist revolt in "a matter of hours."

Ukrainians rallied overwhelmingly in Sunday's election behind Petro Poroshenko, a political veteran and billionaire owner of chocolate factories, hoping the burly 48-year-old can rescue the nation from the brink of bankruptcy, civil war and dismemberment by its former Soviet masters in the Kremlin.

Monday's rapid military response to separatists who seized the airport in Donetsk was a defiant answer to Moscow, which said it was ready for dialogue with Poroshenko but demanded he first scale back the armed forces' in the east. REUTERS

A pro-Russian militant takes position on the roof of the airport. / GETTY IMAGES

Who is he?

Experts split on Jewish Museum killer

The shooting of three people at Brussels' Jewish Museum was probably a "terrorist attack," Belgian officials said on Monday, though some security experts suggested it may have been the work of a hitman rather than an anti-Semitic "lone wolf."

An Israeli couple and a French woman were killed in the shooting on Saturday. A Belgian man remains hospitalized in critical condition. The gunman was still on the run late Monday.

Police released a video clip from the museum's security cameras showing a man wearing a dark cap, sunglasses and a blue jacket enter the building, take a Kalashnikov rifle out of a bag, and shoot into a room, before calmly walking out. REUTERS

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How two married artists make it work

Work life. He's a musician. She's an actress. So how can they afford to live in an expensive city? We find out.

The stats

Ebbe Manczuk

Age: 39
Residency: Bronx, New York
Lives with: Her husband
Number of jobs: 2

"Where there's a will, there's a way," Manczuk says about pursuing acting while working full time. / PROVIDED

What's your primary job?
I'm an import specialist for Customs & Border Protection. I facilitate trade between Customs and people who are importing products to the United States. I have to make sure everything has the right paperwork and meets regulation. Most importantly, I collect revenue. So part of what I do is collect the taxes and duty for items coming in. … I started working there 19 years ago when I was 20. They were recruiting at my college and I thought the money was pretty darn good!

You also act on the side. What was your first audition?
I've always loved acting, but when I came to America from Nigeria in 1995, I wasn't thinking about it. I'm very African in the way I think: I need to know where my paycheck is coming from. But if you really love something, it never goes away. I used to read Backstage magazine every Thursday when it came out and would see the auditions, but I would talk myself out of going because I had an accent and was curvy. One day, I saw there were auditions for a play set in Nigeria and I thought, "Now that I can do!" I came in with a fake résumé, a Glamour Shots photo and a monologue that I hadn't memorized. They looked at me like I was crazy, but I got the part!

How do you go on auditions and work on projects while working full time?
Where there's a will, there's a way. I go to auditions on my lunch break or near the end of the day. That's the great thing about being an actor in New York; you can walk to auditions. I save my vacation time to take a week or two off to work on something. I sacrifice that for my passion. Often I do projects on the weekend.

Does your husband work?
He's a musician. He was a teacher until 2010, then he decided to pursue music full time. So I work the 9-to-5 and do my art on the side and he does his art full time. We make it work together. It's a beautiful quilt.

SECOND SHIFT

See creative ways city dwellers make ends meet.

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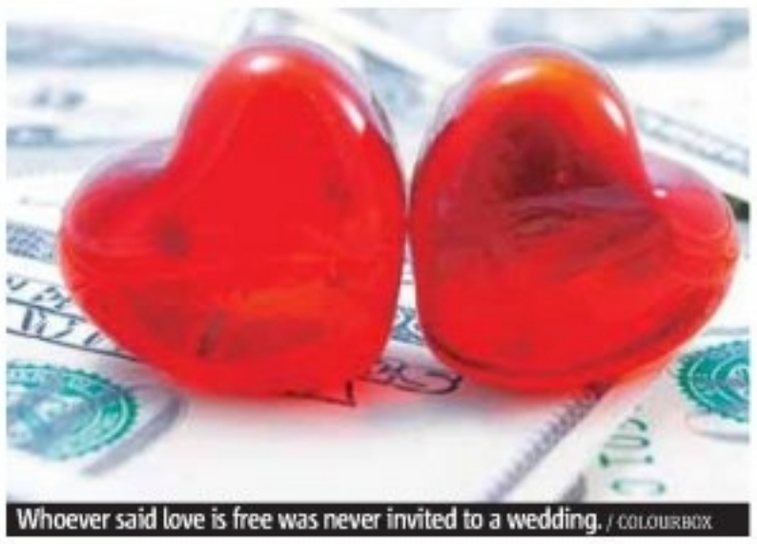
Spending. Weddings aren't just expensive for the happy couple

Even if you are already married or single and plan on staying that way, you might want to start a wedding fund anyway; the cost of being a part of your friends' celebration of lifelong love is a costly one. Because we know you'll inevitably be at a brunch sometime in the near future where your friends are complaining about how expensive it is to go to a wedding, here are some stats you can casually contribute to the conversation:



Whoever said love is free was never invited to a wedding. / COLOURBOX

$592

Average cost a wedding guest spends (not including the gift), according to the results of an American Express survey.

$200

Average amount a person spends on a wedding gift for a family member,

Clink

$3K

The average amount couples spend on open bars for their weddings, reports HowStuffWorks.com. EMILY LAURENCE

according to American Express.

$109

Average amount a person spends on a wedding gift for a friend, the same survey found.

$66

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Celebrities. Before they were famous, they hit the books

Before these stars were red-carpet regulars, they were ordinary college students who declared their majors and took pre-requisite classes just like everyone else. So which celebrity shares your field of study? Find out below.

Jon Hamm

Decades before his character Don Draper enthralled fans on "Mad Men," Hamm was an English major at the University of Missouri, even briefly teaching middle school after graduation.

Ashton Kutcher

Before he rose to fame playing the dumber than a box of rocks Kelso on "That '70s Show," the sitcom star and producer was planning to study biochemical engineering at the University of Iowa.

Kunal Nayyar

"The Big Bang Theory" star studied business and finance at the University of Portland, arriving as an 18-year-old freshman from India in 1999.

Amy Schumer

The comedian majored in theater at Maryland's Towson University.

Carrie Underwood

A year after winning "American Idol," Underwood graduated magna cum laude from Oklahoma's Northeastern State University in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in mass communication with an emphasis in journalism.

LAKSHMI GANDHI

Academic star

Kourtney Kardashian

The only one of the Kardashian sisters to earn a college degree, the "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" star graduated from the University of Arizona with a bachelors in theatre arts and a minor in Spanish. (Her brother Rob, also a college grad, is a proud holder of a 2009 degree from the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business.)

Kourtney Kardashian is a graduate of the University of Arizona. / GETTY IMAGES

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TIPS FROM EMPLOYERS FOR THE CLASS OF 2014

With a few million students graduating this month, there's even more competition for jobs. The good news is that college hiring has increased by 7.8 percent relative to 2014, reports the National Association of Colleges and Employers. Still, it's very competitive, and graduates have to work to stand out.

In a new study in partnership with Beyond.com, Millennial Branding found that 73 percent of hiring managers felt that colleges are only "somewhat preparing" students for the working world. Therefore, it's on the students to figure out the best ways to win the recruiting game.

Here are three tips based on the findings:

A positive attitude and good teamwork skills are key to landing that all-important first job. / FUSE

Choose a company based on culture

Companies are now hiring for cultural fit over all other qualifications because personality is a leading indicator for how productive and successful they will be on the job. Almost half of HR professionals surveyed said that cultural fit was the most important factor when deciding who to hire.

Develop soft skills

The top three attributes that companies are currently looking for are: a positive attitude (84 percent), communication skills (83 percent) and an ability to work on a team (74 percent). To improve your attitude, choose the right company instead of applying to random jobs. Also, put the smartphone down and engage.

Tip

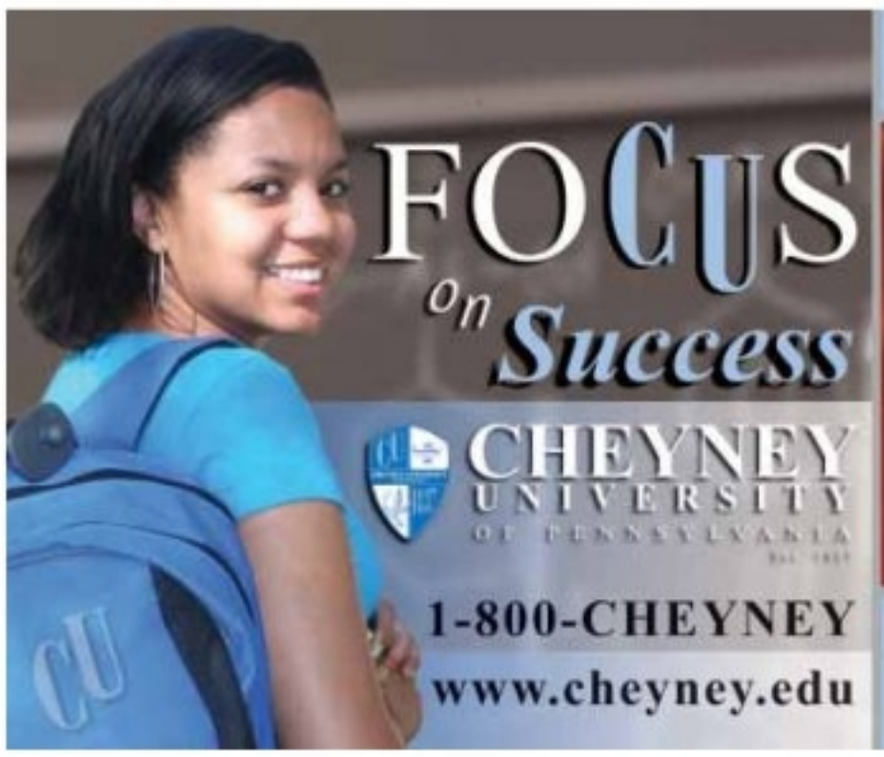
Don't major in liberal arts

The most disappointing finding in our study was that only 2 percent of companies are actively recruiting liberal arts majors versus 27 percent for engineering and 18 percent for business. Almost half of all professionals surveyed said that they believe there are "no jobs" for liberal arts grads. If you majored in liberal arts, you should start reading business books, taking business classes and get a mentor to fill in the gap.

Jobs advice

DAN SCHAWBEL
www.DanSchawbel.com
Dan Schawbel is a workplace expert, keynote speaker and author of The New York Times best-selling book "Promote Yourself: The New Rules for Career Success."

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author.



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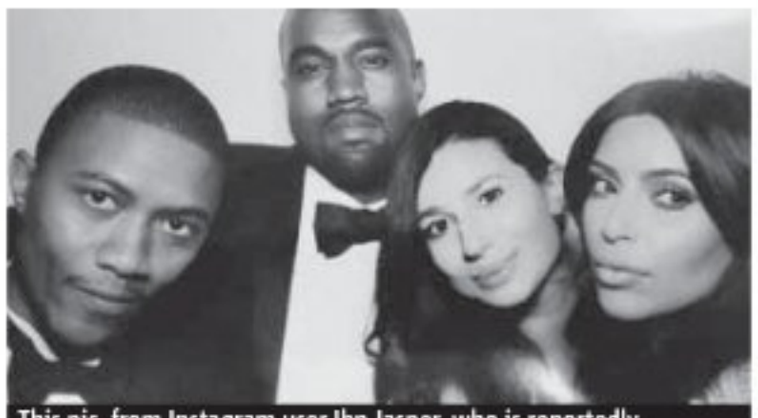
Talking point

Christina Ricci expecting

Christina Ricci is going to be a mom. The "Addams Family" star is expecting her first child with husband James Heerdegen, she confirmed to Entertainment Tonight. The two met while making the short-lived TV series "Pan Am" in 2012 and tied the knot in October 2013 in a private ceremony in New York City. Ricci has done a remarkable job of keeping the pregnancy quiet; when she finally stepped out at LAX this weekend her baby bump, she was pretty far along.

Kimye's Italian wedding

The world's most-talked-about couple are now the world's most-talked-about married couple. Kim Kardashian and Kanye West were married over the weekend in a lavish ceremony that seemed second only to royalty. Here's what we know about the nuptials.



This pic, from Instagram user Ibn Jasper, who is reportedly Kanye West's barber, was hashtagged #family. / INSTAGRAM

The dress

Kim's gorgeous gown, designed by Givenchy creative director Riccardo Tisci, featured handmade lace work that reached down her arms with sheer paneling covering her back, reports say. A long silk veil, smooth hair worn down and a simple bouquet completed the look.

The guests

Select invitees were treated to a rehearsal dinner and gardens tour at Palace of Versailles in France then flown to Florence, Italy, for the nuptials and reception at Forte di Belvedere. Guests throughout the weekend included John Legend and Chrissy Teigen, Jaden Smith, "Girls Gone Wild" creator Joe Francis, designer Alexander Wang and more.

Giancarlo Giammetti posted this pic from the rehearsal dinner. /INSTAGRAM

Talking point

The music

Kanye surprised Kim at their pre-wedding celebration at Versailles with a live performance by one of Kim's favorite singers, Lana Del Rey. John Legend and Italian opera singer Andrea Bocelli sang at the reception. Rumor has it that Kanye joined Big Sean on the mic, too.

The honeymoon

Reports say the post-wedding getaway will be short, since they're due in Prague for Kanye's stylist's wedding next weekend. Rumor has it that the newlyweds landed in Cork, Ireland, on Sunday and are staying at the five-star Castlemartyr Resort in East Cork.

The drama

Little brother Rob Kardashian allegedly flew home before the wedding for fear that the camera would add 10 more unwanted pounds. Reports also say that youngest sister Kylie Jenner, 16, was making out with Jaden Smith, 15, during the reception while John Legend's romantic ballad "All of Me" played.

THE WORD

Christina Paciolla takes on the world of gossip.

CHRISTINA PACIOLLA
@cpaciolla
christina.paciolla@metro.us

Emma Watson, Brown grad

First Hogwarts, now college. "Harry Potter" star Emma Watson has officially graduated from Brown University, receiving a bachelor's degree in English. The 24-year-old British actress tweeted a photo of herself in her cap and gown, ready to receive her degree, with an attached caption of just a single exclamation point.

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Cher Lloyd throws the party of the year

CHER LLOYD APPEARS ON THE "TODAY" SHOW ON NBC TODAY.
GETTY IMAGES

Want U Back.
After an extended absence, the singer returns and says, "Sorry I'm Late."

Two years ago, Cher Lloyd released a single that was a definite contender for Song of the Summer called "Want U Back." Don't remember it? That's OK. It was 2012, the summer of "Call Me Maybe," "Somebody That I Used to Know" and "Starships."

Lloyd, who first came to prominence in her homeland in 2010 after making it to the top four in the British version of "The X Factor," has had an eventful few years. After releasing her debut, "Sticks & Stones" on Simon Cowell's label, she had a falling out with the entertainment mogul, with whom she disagreed about her musical direction. It has been so long since the world has heard a full-length album from her, Lloyd decided to title her brand new release, "Sorry I'm Late."

"In one sense, I'm glad that we have waited, because I feel so good about everything right now," says the singer in a chipper British accent. (She will turn 21 next month, by the way.)

"The main thing for me is that I have grown as a person," she continues. "I am much more aware of what I want to achieve now. Before, it was all similar sounds, and very pop and very young as well, and now I feel like I'm at the point where I'm able to express myself in a completely different way."

The recent video for her "Sirens" single is definitely a different way of expressing herself. It features a tearful Lloyd singing in the kitchen as the DEA barges in and arrests the bad boys who are involved in some nondescript illegal narcotic activity in her dining room.

See more at www.metro.us

Lyrical analysis

'A butt and a rack'

Lloyd's single, "I Wish," which came out last fall, features T.I. and functioned as a bridge of sorts to prepare fans for her new material. There's a line in the song that we couldn't help but ask her about: "I wish I woke up with a butt and a rack."

"Doesn't every young girl wish for that? ... Of course they do," she says. "That song for me was basically me revealing myself and saying I do wish for the things that I can't have, and I think that's relatable."

"It's not necessarily bubblegum pop," says the singer of the contrast in styles between her two albums. "It's more rock."

When talking further about the contrast, Lloyd says she credits the change to her increased involvement in making "Sorry I'm Late."

"Every song on this album was picked by me, not by guys in suits," she says. "This album is a representation of me as an artist."

When we ask Lloyd if her song, "M.F.P.O.T.Y." (it stands for Mother F—ing Party Of The Year) is a contender for this year's Song of the Summer, she is humble.

"I'm not sure," she says. "I'm the type of artist that lets something go and do its own thing because I know my fans are really passionate. And it will possibly be their song for the summer."

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TV watch list

COMEDY

'Riot'

Hopefully this new show featuring the improvisational comedy skills of guests like Jason Alexander will put an end to "Whose Line is it Anyway?" being the benchmark for improv. However, if you do improv, be prepared to tell people that it's not always done on a stage set at a 22-degree angle. **8 P.M., FOX**

Contestant Jordan Black, on the left, guest Jason Alexander and "Riot" cast member Jessica McKenna join in a game of Slide Set. / RAY MICKSHAW / FOX

COMPETITION

'America's Got Talent'

With "The Voice" wrapping up for the season, NBC needs to put another talent competition on the air, stat! Throughout eight seasons, "AGT" has always been weirder than all of the singing shows, and we welcome the weird: The clips we've seen of this upcoming season include sword-play, acrobatic skeletons, daredevils on pogo sticks and a balladeer playing an exploding piano. We're in! **SEASON PREMIERE, 8 P.M., NBC**

REALITY

'Celebrity Wife Swap'

As with all reality shows employing the term "celebrity," it's used quite loosely here. Robin Leach? Larry Birkhead? **10 P.M., ABC METRO**

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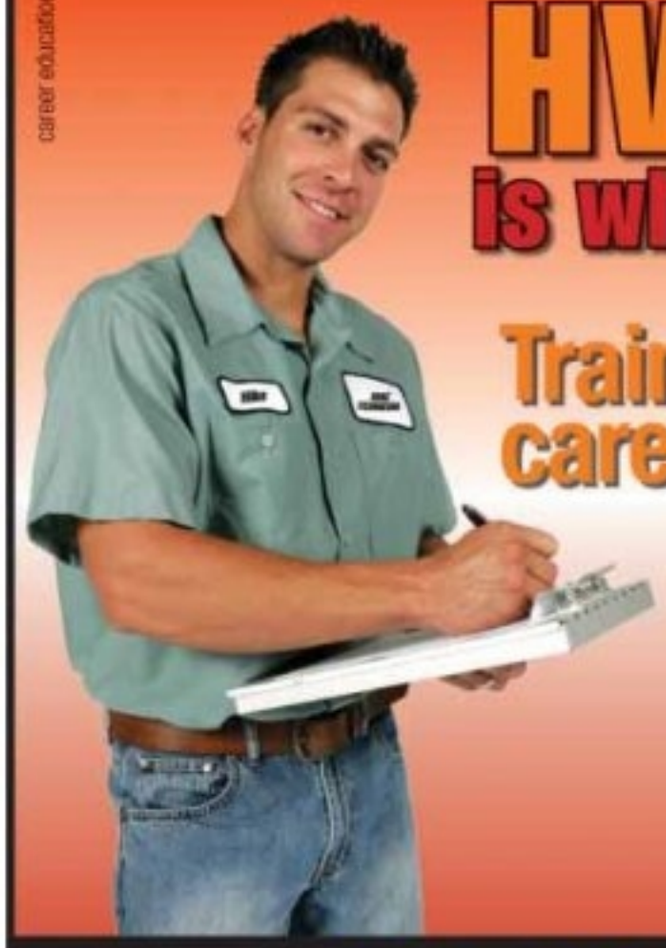

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The unexpected 'blessings' of family

"The Blessings" is about a family dealing with grief, but this book won't leave you feeling sad. / DAN BERNSTEIN

Fiction. Author Elise Juska reveals how art imitated life in her book.

Families, with their complex relationships, forced love and enduring bonds, make for good stories. And Elise Juska's novel, "The Blessings," is exactly that.

"The Blessings" centers on a big Irish-Catholic family living in northeast Philadelphia. At the center of this dynamic family is a man named John Blessing, who dies. Each family member — from his wife to his daughter to his parents — deals with his death in different ways, which the book gracefully explores.

"I come from a close Irish-Catholic family, and we had two uncles who died [young]," Juska tells us, calling from her native Philadelphia. "They were the core of my family for so long, so this was not a scenario I was unfamiliar with. It's something I've tried to write about many times. This was my way of telling that story."

While she was writing the book, her grandmother died, adding another layer of real-life grief to the fictional grief Juska was exploring. Despite the heaviness of the topic, she loved immersing herself in the Blessings' world and she's not quite done with them yet. "I really love these people. … There's been a lot of early feedback from readers saying there should be a sequel. That would be a great excuse to go back to the characters and see where they end up. I'm curious about the next generation. It's possible."

Quoted

"There's been a lot of early feedback from readers saying there should be a sequel. That would be a great excuse to go back to the characters and see where they end up."

Juska

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Box office. 'X-Men' uses some super powers against 'Godzilla'

Young Magneto, played by Michael Fassbender, wields his powers, just as the film "X-Men: Days of Future Past" wielded its powers at the box office this weekend. / ALAN MARKFIELD

The "X-Men" mutant superheroes smashed into U.S. and Canadian theaters and collected $90.7 million in ticket sales through Sunday, keeping monster hit "Godzilla" at bay and heading toward a decisive win over a long holiday weekend.

Fortune reported that "X-Men: Days of Future Past" brought in $111 million by the end of the Memorial Day holiday. The movie also reportedly earned a global total of $302 million after opening at No. 1 in 119 countries around the world.

Last week's winner, monster movie remake "Godzilla," dropped to second place with $31.4 million through Sunday, a total which Box Office Mojo reported reached $39 million yesterday.

Romantic comedy "Blended" claimed the No. 3 spot, taking in $14.2 million through Sunday with a reported total of $18 million through yesterday.

"X-Men: Days of Future Past" is the seventh movie in the blockbuster Marvel Comics franchise about mutant superheroes.

In the latest installment, Hugh Jackman's sharp-clawed Wolverine travels back in time to try and save the mutants from future destruction. To alter history, he is drawn into battle with the blue, shape-shifting Mystique, portrayed by Jennifer Lawrence in the $200 million film.

The movie scored the fifth-biggest Memorial Day weekend opening in history, Rentrak said.

"X-Men" was released by 20th Century Fox, a unit of Twenty-First Century Fox. "Godzilla" was produced by Time Warner Inc.'s Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures. Warner Bros. also released "Blended." REUTERS

Weekend winners

1. 'X-Men: Days of Future Past,' $90.7 million
2. 'Godzilla,' $31.4 million
3. 'Blended,' $14.2 million
4. 'Neighbors,' $13.9 million
5. 'The Amazing Spider-Man 2,' $7.8 million

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"I see a lot of grandparents doing whatever they can to help their grandkids."

Maureen Reiter, retired pharmacist

Some grandparents are beginning to put aside college funds as soon as their grandchildren are born. / AMANA IMAGES

As tuition rises, grandmas are stepping in

Money. In many families, grandparents are helping students foot their tuition bills.

In an era of stagnant wages and rising prices, many Americans struggle to simultaneously save for retirement and their children's college tuition.

So who is coming to the rescue? Grandparents.

Maureen Reiter, a retired pharmacist from Kansas City, Missouri, has four grandkids, ages four and younger. Reiter and her husband are already contributing to 529 college-savings plans for each of them.

"I see a lot of grandparents doing whatever they can to help their grandkids," says the 61-year-old.

Indeed, according to Boston-based financial research firm Strategic Insight, more and more grandparents are doing exactly that.

With this growing trend, though, some complex tax, financial-aid and emotional issues emerge.

In short, you have to be smart about your generosity. Here's some advice:

Think about the financial-aid implications

The more assets available to a student, the higher the expected family contribution. While a grandparent-owned 529 plan is not among the assets you have to list on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), distributions from the plan are considered income during that year, says Andrea Feirstein, the head of New York City's AKF Consulting.

The way to structure a grandparent's 529 is to set it up so that it's the money used in the final year of a child's higher education, Feirstein says.

Start small, and stay consistent

Maureen Reiter and her husband start off the grandkids with $1,000 in their 529s on their first birthdays, then $200 a month for two years. "If you start too high, and then have five or six grandkids, that could become a big financial burden," she says. REUTERS

Tip

Consider other ways to contribute

A grandparent-owned 529 is far from the only option you have to help out the grandkids. You can also simply direct cash into an existing parent-owned account.

The process is simple: Get a contribution form from the 529-plan provider, fill in basic information such as account number and the names of the account owner and beneficiary, and send in a check. Just keep in mind that third-party contributions may not be eligible for tax deductions.

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Test prep is going digital with these new apps. / WAVEBREAK MEDIA

Prep for the SATs from the comfort of your phone

Study tips. High schoolers are utilizing apps to get ready for standardized tests.

LAKSHMI GANDHI
@LakshmiGandhi
lakshmi.gandhi@metro.us

Put away your flash cards — a new crop of mobile apps is putting a new twist on studying for the SATs.

Until recently, the basics of standardized test preparation have been the same for generations: Get a bunch of review books, and maybe take a prep course.

But Mark Anestis is one of many educators and app developers who is working to change that. For 15 years, Anestis has been running The Learning Edge, a Connecticut-based tutoring company, and has created two study apps to assist students with tackling the exams.

"My philosophy with test prep is that it's important that the kids enjoy what they are doing while doing it," explains Anestis.

The longtime tutor describes the SAT and ACT as "game-like" tests and encourages his students to take a strategic approach to the exams. "It's all about having a game plan," Anestis says, which led him to actually create a game to help students study.

That philosophy led to SATLadder. Anestis says he was inspired by games such as Words With Friends that allow players to compete against each other in a fun and approachable way, and by the fact that many of his students were seemingly glued to their smartphones.

"The reality is that these kids are mobile," he says. "They spend a lot of time in the car going to activities and are always on the move. Before, if you were sitting in the waiting room of a doctor's office, that was wasted time. Now students can just prep on their phones."

Students have the option of playing either head-to-head or in solo mode. Each round consists of one SAT question. The game not only judges whether players get the question right, but also how long it takes for them to solve the problem. The student who answers the fastest proceeds to the next round. "The way you get better at this test is practice, practice, practice," says Anestis. "It's crucial because you learn from your mistakes."

Vocabulary Builder

Study those words

Anestis also has an app that focuses solely on the verbal sections. The Daily Word provides students with an SAT word each morning. "The hardest part of studying for the SAT is learning all of the vocabulary," Anestis notes.

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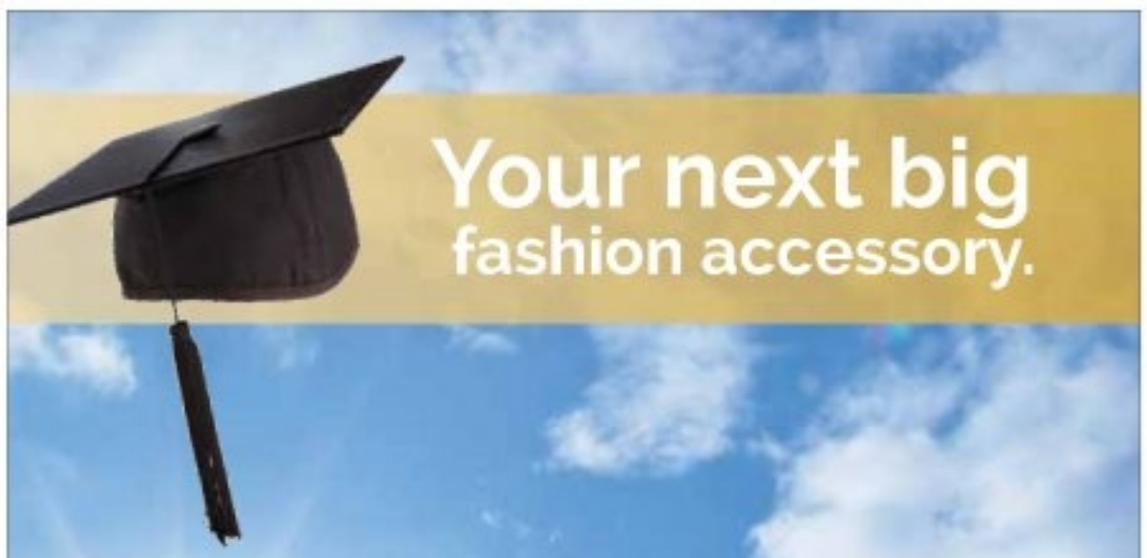

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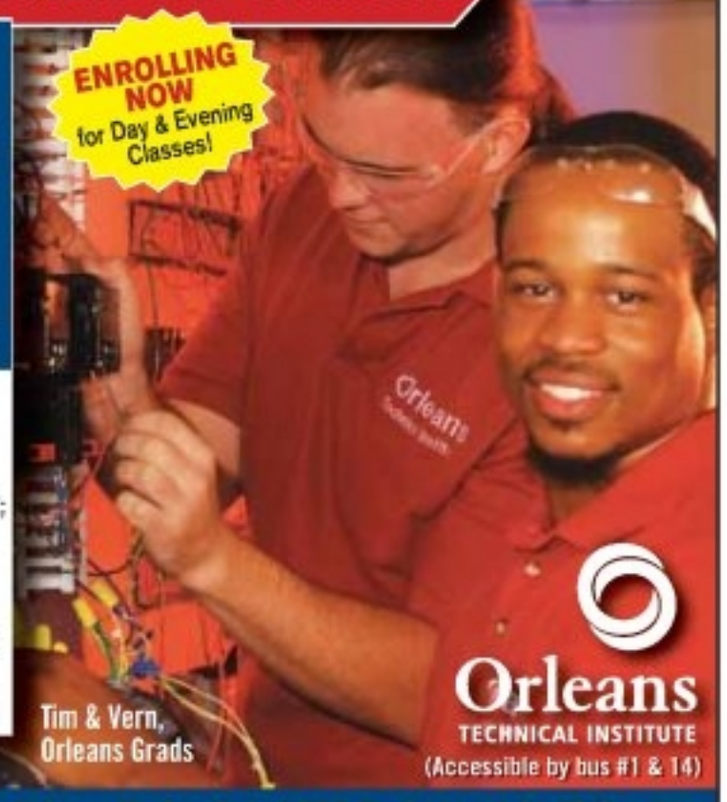

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New study

It's better to let someone else do the driving when you're expecting. / COLOURBOX

The everyday activity that puts pregnant women at risk

Being pregnant can — and rightly so — get you out of a lot of things. Don't feel like going to a dinner party? Late for work? Your oven bun is the perfect excuse. Now, there's another thing it can help you get out of: driving. According to a new study, pregnant women have more car crashes than their non-pregnant peers.

The study compared the number of car crashes women had during their pregnancies with the number they had before and after they were pregnant.

The women were monitored for four years; researchers concluded that most of the crashes occurred while they were pregnant.

Published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, one of the reasons researchers think pregnant women are more at risk for involvement in crashes is due to "pregnancy brain," or foggy thinking.

See more at www.metro.us

Women who experience "pregnancy brain" often momentarily forget how to do something that is usually routine for them, or they might zone out temporarily.

But despite the risk, the study notes that young men have more crashes than women, period. Statistically, your safest bet is to rely on a female friend or mom to drive you. EMILY LAURENCE

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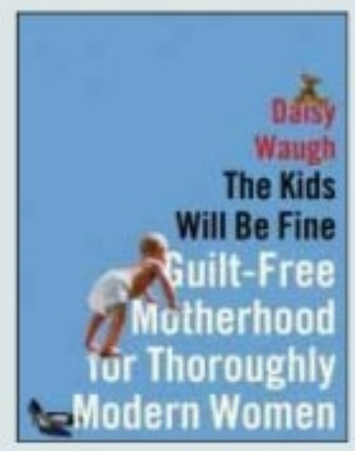
Parenting by the book

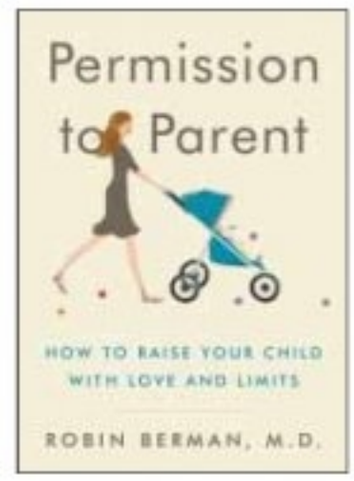
From how not to raise a spoiled brat to sounding knowledgeable in a conversation with your teen about "Divergent," these three new releases provide a handy cheat sheet to the whole parenting thing.

1 'The Kids Will Be Fine: Guilt-Free Motherhood for Thoroughly Modern Women'



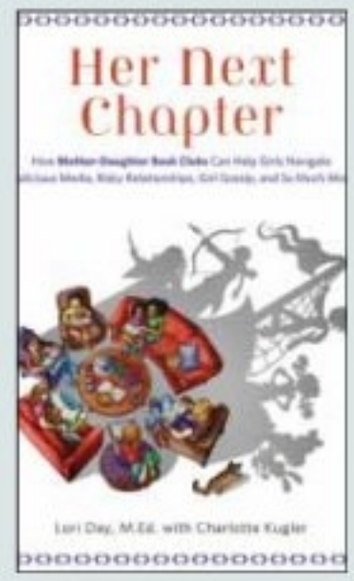
Through funny yet informed essays, writer Daisy Waugh argues that you don't have to pre-chew your toddler's food or spend thousands of dollars on the best preschool in your city for your child to turn out OK. The takeaway is that kids are pretty darn resilient, and although of course you want to help them grow into responsible, caring adults, you don't have to obsess over it.

2 'Permission to Parent: How to Raise Your Child with Love and Limits'



If you want to give your child everything a young heart desires without turning him or her into a spoiled brat, this is the parenting guidebook for you. Psychiatrist Robin Berman advises parents on how to strike a healthy balance between excessive praise or catering to a child's every need and being neglectful or dismissive. It's great for new or not-so-new parents.

3 'Her Next Chapter'



This is a great book to spark some dialogue about real issues teen girls face, using popular media as the conversation starter. Author Lori Day offers up movies and books to watch and read with your daughter, plus some questions about issues that matter, such as gender stereotypes, sexism, bullying and relationships. Expect a mix of buzzy books and movies you'll both be excited about and that will make you closer than ever.

EMILY LAURENCE
@EmLaurence
emily.laurence@metro.us

Horoscope

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Appearances can be deceiving. Refrain from making an important decision until you have all the details.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Gain some insight about who you and your associates are. Start a dialogue about your past, and urge others to share theirs.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Finding the right balance can be difficult. Look for the best way to manage your time effectively so you don't fall behind. Being too proud to ask for help will be your downfall.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Someone you care deeply about needs attention. Make an effort to show gratitude and affection.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. If something has been bothering you, take action. Get professional advice or consider taking a break from whatever is causing you stress.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. It's time to move forward in your personal life. Face up to emotional issues and decide what is right for you. Reconnect with an old friend.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Check out an opportunity to advance from your current position. You'll move ahead in the long run.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Favorable attention will come your way today. Your talent and charm are a winning combination. A decision that you've been avoiding can be dealt with.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. You will need to make an extra effort to get along with others today. Use tact with someone who is feeling sensitive and insecure.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Get together with someone for an enjoyable outing. Be honest about the way you feel. Open communication will help.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Work changes are imminent. This is a good time to go for interviews. You may consider starting your own business.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. You may be caught in an emotional whirlwind. If you find matters too confusing, back away from the situation to give yourself time. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

4			9			8		
9	3				2		4	
		6		3	1		7	
		2	3					
8		4				7		2
					4	1		
	5		1	4		3		
	1		7				6	8
		3			6			5

						6		
		7		4			8	
	1	9	3	6				2
		8	1		6			
6	2		5	8	9		7	3
			7		4	1		
4				1	3	5	9	
	3			7		8		
		6						

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Elect Clinton for historical significance

Nothing angers me more than when people in the media compare that mediocre Jeb Bush to the great Hillary Clinton. First of all, the Bushes are a political dynasty; the Clintons are not. The Clintons are a team. The dictionary definition of a dynasty is a family of rulers who rule over a country for a long period of time. There have been four generations of Bushes and one generation of Clintons. Hillary Clinton has been the most dominant political figure of the last 20 years (and that includes her husband). How many books or covers of magazines has Jeb Bush appeared on? Hillary Clinton is one of the most famous women in the world and the most respected woman in the United States. The only time Jeb Bush achieved national prominence is when he used Nazi tactics to steal the presidency for his worthless dim-witted brother. Otherwise, very few people know who Jeb Bush is on a national level. Unlike Hillary, there is no grassroots support for Jeb Bush except among the media and the donor class. If Hillary Clinton was elected president, it would be a milestone in U.S. election history because electing the first female president and breaking that glass ceiling would be historic.

REBA SHIMANSKY, VIA EMAIL

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Across

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11 Casserole cover
14 Orchard pest
15 Disconnected
16 Yoko —
17 Not clergy
18 Riddle
20 Rainbow shape
21 Notice
23 Hawk's refuge
24 Buckwheat
26 Colonial dances
28 Worked a cure
30 Factions
31 Ore analysis
32 Pampas backdrop
33 Beret
36 Part of Caesar's boast
37 Beg
38 Four-star review
39 — Gardens
40 George of "Blume in Love"
41 Defiant reply
42 Winning
43 Auto import
44 Commuter's need (2 wds.)
47 Kind of point
48 Showbiz org.
49 Turnpike fee
50 Dock denizen
53 Cry uncle
56 Arab princes
58 Vexation
59 WWII craft (hyph.)
60 Wrestling venue
61 Potato bud
62 Bedding plant
63 Chorus platform

Down

1 Ms. Powers of the movies
2 On — — with
3 Oklahoma tribe
4 Bang into
5 Long journey
6 Bauxite giant
7 Whistle sound
8 Charged atom
9 Baton Rouge sch.
10 Lease signers
11 Sinister Peter of films
12 Igloo dweller
13 Round roofs
19 — ex machina
22 Advanced degree
25— — unto itself
26 Hero's award
27 Chilled
28 Sheik's garment
29 To be, to Brutus
30 Golfer Sam —
32 One-celled plants
33 Troops on horseback
34 Maintain
35 Chile neighbor
37 Look intently
38 McEntire of music
40 "Ship out" alternative (2 wds.)
41 Type of energy
42 In the distance
43 Earth's star
44 Band leader Count —
45 Loan sharking
46 Fallen-rock debris
47 — -niner
49 Daytime socials
51 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
52 Industrial giant
54 Lakers' org.
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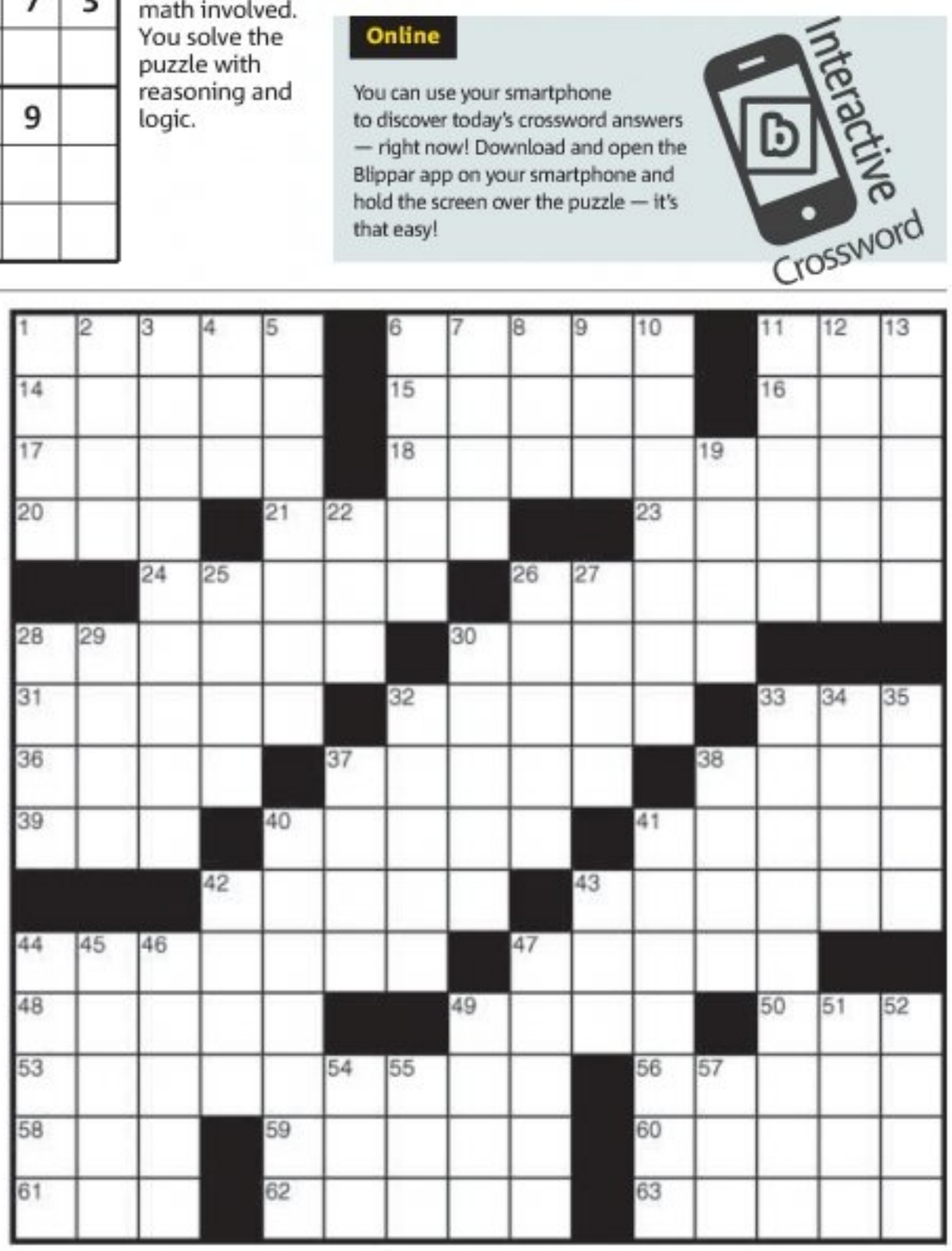

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3

SPORTS

Rangers on brink

New York can clinch finals spot

After being one loss away from elimination twice in Game 7's (to the Flyers and Penguins), the Rangers are now one win over the Canadians away from advancing to the Stanley Cup Finals. Game 5 begins in Montreal tonight at 8 p.m. on NBCSN.

PHILLIES SHOULD CUT LOSSES WITH BROWN

Domonic Brown has a perfect swing, but cannot hit. He has a formidable arm, with no direction on his throws. He has the energy of youth, but no motivation. He is a smart man, and a dumb ballplayer.

On a Phillies team filled with underachievers, Brown stands alone as the biggest disappointment of 2014. He is still starting in left field because of one five-week hot streak — exactly a year ago — when he realized his potential. Before and after that, he has been one of the least productive outfielders in baseball.

Based on the last 12 months of his big league career, the only remarkable thing about Brown is that he's still on the Phillies roster. Between May 2 and June 8 of last season, he slammed 16 homers in 35 games, a power output comparable to Ryan Howard's 58 home runs in 2006. In 45 contests so far this year — spanning 168 at-bats — he has three homers and is hitting .202.

What has happened to the most talented player developed by the Phillies in the past half-dozen years? There are two basic theories: Either the pitchers adjusted to him, or he just doesn't care enough. In interviews, he appears committed, thoughtful, articulate. But then he contradicts that image with some really stupid decisions.

Domonic Brown has been unable to find a groove at the plate in 2014. / GETTY IMAGES

For example, last week — with Miami leading 1-0 in the 7th inning — he bounced a ball back to the mound and jogged down to first base. When pitcher Henderson Alvarez proceeded to throw wildly, it was too late for Brown to redeem himself. Now, he's not the first player to disrespect the game, but when you're batting average is near the Mendoza line, it makes no sense not to at least show some effort.

Whether he realizes it or not, Brown is approaching a crossroad in his puzzling career. At age 26, he will be eligible for arbitration after this season, a milestone that will inflate his $500,000 salary well beyond his productivity. Will the Phillies still want him when he costs $3 or $4 million a year? Will anyone?

Already, there are reports that the Phillies are developing some contingency plans for life without Brown. Fox Sports reported last week that the Phils are thinking about converting another underachiever, Cody Asche, to left field to make room for top prospect Maikel Franco at third base. Asche, who is on the disabled list with a hamstring injury, doesn't figure to be much of a defensive outfielder, but then, neither is Brown.

A smarter move — which the Phillies should be making right now — is to name Darin Ruf the full-time left fielder. Ruf is still young at 27, and would provide an important right-handed power bat in the limp Phillies lineup.

The voice of Philly sports

ANGELO CATALDI

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Idle thought

- Mets fan Jon Stewart launched into a vicious — and tongue-in-cheek — attack against the Philly Phanatic on The Daily Show last week. What made his tirade especially funny is that Mr. Met may be the dumbest, least entertaining mascot in sports — as Stewart eventually acknowledged. Score another win for the Phanatic.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author.

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Cataldi on DeSean Jackson

Jackson's departure is still a mystery

DeSean Jackson, the lovable former Eagles wide receiver, tried one more time last week to explain the mysterious circumstances surrounding his exit, but ultimately he just made the situation even more confusing.

In an interview with DJ Skee in Los Angeles, Jackson said, "Everybody in the locker room loved me, you feel me?" Oh, we feel you, DeSean. But that doesn't mean we understand what happened to you — especially now that LeSean McCoy has offered some strong words of support, expressing his admiration for Jackson as a teammate and his own initial shock at the decision.

Fans are still seeking closure with Jackson's departure. / GETTY IMAGES

So far, trying to understand Jackson's departure has been a process of eliminating some obvious theories. Most fans now agree his gang connection was a story with intrigue, but not much basis in fact. And his inconsistency, especially in the bigger games, is a non-issue, too, when you consider all of the other veterans who came up short. Now, we can add the fact that he was not the diva he seemed to be — at least in the eyes of some of his teammates.

Until further notice, this is what Eagles fans feel about the DeSean Jackson mystery: He was a terrific player, beloved by all, with no gang ties, at the height of his Pro Bowl career. And then he got cut by one of the smartest people in the NFL.

In other words, there is no logical reason why Jackson is not still a member of the Eagles. Will we ever really know the truth?

ANGELO CATALDI

Cataldi. NBA lottery had everything but a laugh track this year

Julius Erving represented the 76ers last week at the lottery. / GETTY IMAGES

The only thing lacking last week from the Sixers' participation in the silliest annual event on the sports calendar, the NBA lottery, was a laugh track. Men in suits opening envelopes on national television is ripe for mockery under the best of circumstances, and our gang of misfits only added to the hilarity this time around.

First, Julius Erving appeared to have a senior moment when the Sixer logo turned up in the 10th slot in the draft, causing Dr. J a rare momentary lapse in cool. Apparently, the legend was not aware that his team had two picks in the first round. Hey, the man is 64. Give him a break.

Then the Sixers' season-long tank job was rewarded with the third pick, one slot less favorable than their second-worst record suggested. Immediately, CEO Scott O'Neil declared that "it couldn't have gone better." Really? Then what would he have said if they got the first or second pick?

In a draft with three marquee players — Andrew Wiggins and Joel Embiid of Kansas and Jabari Parker of Duke — the Sixers will indeed get one of them, but it will not be their choice. Cleveland and Milwaukee will get to decide who drops to the No. 3 spot, an unfortunate turn of events if you are already an admirer of GM Sam Hinkie's heralded analytics.

But don't fret, Philadelphia, because Hinkie pried himself away from his stat sheets long enough last week to declare that fans probably have too high an opinion of his expertise, anyway. He's no genius, he said. No one is.

ANGELO CATALDI

Final thoughts

"OK, so let's review. Dr. J is overwhelmed, Scott O'Neil is overjoyed and Sam Hinkie is overrated. Hey, at least the Sixers are more entertaining now than they were when they were actually playing basketball."

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Philly Soul playing with heart in 2014

Arena football. The Soul have a potent offense and are still hoping to grab a playoff spot.

Homeward bound

Next weekend, the Soul return home to play the San Antonio Talons at home on Sunday, June 1 at 5 p.m.

- The game will also be televised on ESPN News.

Quoted

"It's a tough way to lose. We were able to take advantage of the opportunities early, but you need to do that for all four quarters. We didn't get it done in the fourth quarter tonight and it cost us."

Dolezel

For many football fans in Philadelphia, the city is in the midst of a calm before the storm, as Eagles minicamp and training camp are just around the corner.

But if you head to South Philly and the Wells Fargo Center on a night the Soul are playing, it becomes clear that football never really calms down in a city that loves the game.

The Soul, fresh off a devastating 54-52 loss to the unbeaten Cleveland Gladiators this weekend, sport a 5-5 record despite boasting the third-most-potent offense in the league.

"It's a tough way to lose," said Soul head coach Clint Dolezel of the defeat at the buzzer. "We were able to take advantage of the opportunities early, but you need to do that for all four quarters. We didn't get it done in the fourth quarter tonight and it cost us."

Dan Raudabaugh, who has 51 touchdown passes in the first 10 games for the Soul, has been tough for Arena defenses to stop. So too has been running back Derrick Ross, who leads the entire league with 18 touchdowns and 272 rushing yards. Ross was a member of the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs in 2006, but has bopped around between a half-dozen AFL and Canadian teams since then.

The club is mired in a tie for third place in its division behind Cleveland (9-0) and Pittsburgh (7-3) with eight games remaining, including two against Pittsburgh and a rematch with Cleveland on the docket over the next two months.

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Derrick Ross is one of the best running backs in the Arena Football League. / PHILADELPHIA_SOUL INSTAGRAM

By the numbers

9

Touchdown passes thrown by Soul quarterback Dan Raudabaugh in a win over Iowa.

570

Total points scored by the Soul through ten games. Unfortunately, they have allowed 560 points.

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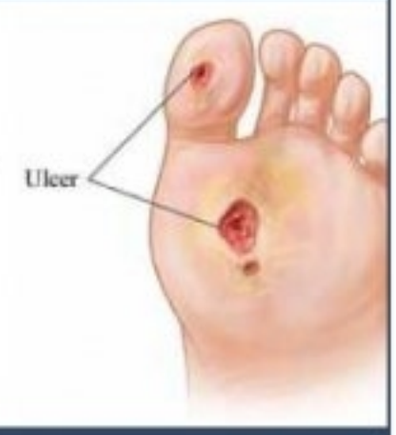

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Have you been *diagnosed with* ADHD?

If so, please contact us about our research study of an investigational medication.

Those who qualify must:

- Be 18 to 55 years of age
- Have a diagnosis of ADHD
- Be available for overnight stays at the study clinic

Insurance is not required to participate and transportation is available.

Those who qualify receive study-related care and study medications at no cost.

Compensation up to $1,725 may be provided for time spent in the research study.

For more information, call toll-free **1.888.436.3361**

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Depressed?

Current Medication Not Helping?

Have you been treated for depression for more than 6 weeks and not getting the response you want?

You may be interested in this clinical research study. Local doctors are conducting a clinical trial for a new investigational medication for major depressive disorder for participants 21 to 70 years of age. Study medication will be provided at no cost. You do not need health insurance to participate.

THE HORIZON STUDY

To find out more details on
The Horizon Study for Major Depressive Disorder
please call:

1-888-256-1148

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Do you suffer from Type 2 Diabetes?

If so, please contact **CRILifetree** about a research study of an investigational Type 2 Diabetes medication for adults.

Qualified participants must:

- Be 18 years of age
- Have Type 2 Diabetes
- Be available for overnight stays

Qualified participants receive all study-related care and study medication at no cost, plus total compensation up to $5,000 may be received for study participation.

No insurance is needed and transportation may be provided at no cost.

For more information, call local toll-free **1.888.641.7240**

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